



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 6, 2022

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Secretary Becerra and Secretary Granholm:

I write this letter to express my concern regarding significant increases in energy prices affecting my constituents in Texas' 34th Congressional District. Given this Administration's disastrous policies regarding domestic energy production, we are seeing unprecedented increases in consumer utility costs.

This has significantly impacted the prices families are paying for electricity and natural gas, and has led to an atypical increase in requests for assistance under the Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) administered by the Department of Health & Human Services. This funding is vital to ensure low-income residents can afford electricity and natural gas costs presented by their skyrocketing utility bills.

This is especially true in Hidalgo County, Texas, where the Community Service Agency (CSA) announced earlier this week that it had expended all funds under LIHEAP for 2022. This means nearly 2,900 unprocessed applications will not be eligible for funding this calendar year, not considering any additional anticipated applications or need – this is simply not acceptable.

Given your position as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, I strongly urge the Department to make additional funding available for the LIHEAP program in Hidalgo County to ensure the needs of citizens are met through 2022, and to consider an increase in 2023 given current circumstances.

I look forward to receiving a prompt reply from you no later than October 10th.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mayra Flores".

Mayra Flores  
Member of Congress (TX-34)

CC: Jaime Longoria, Executive Director of the Hidalgo County Community Service Agency